

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-04

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 EPA-01

CEQ-01 OES-06 /065 W

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R 120615Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8391

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 5328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD JA

SUBJECT: AUTO STANDARDS

REF: STATE 080642

1. PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, EMBOFF CONTACTED EC DELEGATION OFFICIAL TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER MITI HAS ASKED MOT TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO EC REQUESTS FOR CHANGES IN AUTO STANDARDS PROCEDURES LISTED IN TOKYO 2610. EC DELEGATE STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH HE COULD CONFIRM THAT MITI "MUCH MORE AWARE" OF THE POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE PROBLEM, SO FAR AS HE KNEW, MITI HAD MADE NO RPT NO OVERTURES TO MOT ON EC'S BEHALF. EC DELEGATE SAID TEAM OF AUTO EXPERTS FROM EC WILL VISIT TOKYO MAY 10-11 FOR OFFICIAL TALKS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS ON RANGE OF PROBLEMS COVERED IN EC'S APRIL 1 NOTE VERBALE TO GOJ, COPY OF WHICH BEING POUCHED TO EB/ITP/TA RAY MEYER.

2. ON AFTERNOON APRIL 9 EMBOFFS MET WITH MITI INTL TRADE POLICY BUREAU AMERICAS-OCEANIA DIV. DEP. DIR. NEZU AND AUTOMOBILE DIV. DIR. NAKAZAWA TO DISCUSS EMBASSY'S
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AIDE MEMOIRE GIVEN TO GOJ MARCH 22. NAKAZAWA STATED

THAT MITI WAS "SYMPATHETIC" TO THE AUTO STANDARDS PROBLEM FACED BY BOTH EC AND U.S. EXPORTS BUT ADMITTED THAT AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING (MITI, MOT AND MOFA) HAD NOT YET BEEN HELD TO DISCUSS AIDE MEMOIRE.

3. AS HE HAD DONE AT MOFA, ECON COUNS REITERATED THAT USG HAD NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO DEFINE TYPES OF STANDARDS GOJ CAN SET BUT IS LOOKING FOR "CONSTRUCTIVE RECIPROCITY" IN THEIR IMPLEMENTATION AND REQUESTED WRITTEN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST IN A REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

4. LOOKING OVER AIDE MEMOIRE, NAKAZAWA STATED HE FELT, AS FAR AS MITI CONCERNED, MOST OF USG REQUESTS COULD PROBABLY BE MET EXCEPT FOR "PROVISIONAL APPROVAL" PENDING COMPLETION OF VEHICLE TESTING, BECAUSE DEALERS IN JAPAN WOULD NOT WANT TO RISK INTENSE EMBARRASSMENT AND SHAME OF HAVING TO RECALL AND REPAIR DEFECTIVE AUTOS.

5. ECON COUNS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MITI'S VIEWPOINT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF TECHNICAL LEVEL TALKS, WE REFERRED TO LAST SENTENCE PARA C OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND ANSWERED THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES MIGHT BE WILLING TO HOLD SUCH TALKS IF GOJ WANTED THEM AND WOULD INDICATE EXACT SUBJECTS TO BE CONSIDERED.

6. EMBOFFS HAVE MADE APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS AIDE MEMOIRE WITH RESPONSIBLE MOT OFFICIALS ON APRIL 19 AND WILL REPORT FURTHER FOLLOWING THAT MEETING.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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